



Newsletter

British Gliding Association

BGA Newsletter May 2005

BPA Drop Zone Information. The British Parachute Association has provided us with copies of their 'Form 192' which contains details of BPA affiliated clubs (dropping zones) together with their telephone numbers and VHF frequencies. These have been circulated to BGA clubs. You can obtain your own copy of this vital document at <http://www.bpa.org.uk/forms.htm>.

CAA AirProx Report. The UK AirProx Board has published its 12th report covering the period January – June 2004. Once again there are a couple of high profile incidents involving gliders. The lessons are clear – be aware of NOTAMs, maintain a good lookout, and take sensible avoiding action. It is not just your life that is involved. Pilots can learn from a lot of the other reports as well – you can see the document on the UKAB website at <http://www.caa.co.uk/default.aspx?categoryid=423&pagetype=68&groupid=430>

CAA Safety Awards. Neil Goudie of Cambridge GC is one of the three finalists nominated for the CAA General Aviation Safety Awards 2004. In August 2004, another pilot was seriously injured when his glider crashed in a field during a competition in which Neil was also taking part. Neil was nominated for his actions in arranging for an emergency call to be made and then landing in the field himself to give first aid, using his telephone to obtain guidance from a doctor friend, until the air ambulance arrived. The winner will be presented with the CAA's Tiger Moth Trophy at the awards ceremony on 10 May.

New Launching Rope. A number of clubs in Germany have for some time been winch launching using plasma (Ultra High Molecular Weight Polyethylene) rope and the reports of this new material have been excellent. Some of the advantages of plasma rope are lightweight - higher launches and easier retrieves using lightweight vehicles; very strong - fewer breaks; soft and easy to handle – reducing scratches or cuts when handling the rope; quick and easy to splice – no need for expensive cable repair equipment; no 'memory' and therefore no tendency to coil – reducing snarl-ups; high abrasion resistance – slow to wear out; soft - reducing wear to rollers and the airfield surface. The downside is that it is more expensive than steel cable to buy in the first place. Trials, using Dyneema® 12 Strand have recently started at a RAFGSA club and two other clubs are interested in trying it. The BGA is negotiating a deal for clubs interested in trying plasma rope. The UK manufacturer, Marlow Ropes, has said that if we can involve more clubs in the trials at this stage, they can quote a better price. If any other clubs would like to become involved in this exciting new development, please contact Diana King (diana@gerontius.demon.co.uk or 01926 315989) to discuss the project and for further information.

Caroline Trust Awards. The Caroline Trust is a registered charity with the objective of helping deserving young people to glide. The trust can help if you are between 15 and 21 and need help to go solo, get a badge, become an instructor, enter your first competition or achieve another specific objective. It can also help those with disabilities who need help to participate and gliding clubs with specific programmes for young or disabled people. For further information, see your CFI or contact the trust's chairman Pete Wells at carolinetrust@tideswell.net. You can support the trust by making one-off or regular donations or by bequeathing money.

World Sailplane Grand Prix. The first World Sailplane Grand Prix will take place in September at St Auban. The Sailplane Grand Prix is a new type of gliding competition, easier for the public to understand and more attractive to the media. All sailplanes will start simultaneously, tasks will be relatively short with turn points set over the airfield or over easily accessible mountains and the winner will be the first pilot to complete the task. Overall rankings will be calculated using Formula 1 type place scoring. Sailplanes will carry tracking units broadcasting their GPS position so that spectators will be able to watch the race in real time. The UK will be represented by Standard Class World Champion, Andy Davis. More details at <http://www.cnvv.net/wsgp/>.

BGA Centenary Diploma to Celebrate FAI Centenary 2005. The BGA will award centenary diplomas to the pilots who log the most flights in each class during the FAI Centenary Competition. The Northern Hemisphere competition runs from 9-24 July. The contest is open to all pilots, not just competition pilots. For more details, see <http://www2.onlinecontest.org/olcphp/2005/fai/index.php>

Barron Hilton Cup. The new Barron Hilton Cup competition, run in conjunction with EADS, has started and will run until March 14, 2007. The winners will be invited to Mr. Barron Hilton's Flying-M-Ranch for a one week gliding camp. Full details and rules can be found at <http://www2.onlinecontest.org/bhc/index.php>

Bronze Paper. The BGA has written to all club CFI's informing them of the Instructor Committee's proposal to replace the existing Bronze Paper Examination at the end of 2005 with a new examination delivered by CDROM.

Gliding Sites Available for TomTom In-Car Sat Nav Systems. Alan Smith, a member at Booker, has produced a list of UK civilian gliding sites for use with the TomTom 3 satellite road navigation system (useful for when you are away with your partner and you just want to stumble unexpectedly across a gliding site!). The file can be downloaded free of charge from the Booker web site at <http://www.bookergliding.co.uk/>